



PRESS RELEASE

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Governor Schwarzenegger Appoints Renee Zito Director of Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced the appointment of Renee Zito as the director of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) to replace Kathy Jett who today was appointed director of the newly re-organized Division of Addiction and Recovery Services within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

"Alcohol and drug dependency are major public health problems that affect Americans from all walks of life and Renee is perfectly suited to develop and implement programs that encourage those in need to seek treatment and get sober," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "Renee's deep-felt passion for providing assistance to persons who suffer from substance abuse will greatly help the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs achieve their mission."

Zito has served as the director of programs at Marin Services for Women since 2000, where she oversees and manages the staff for the residential and outpatient programs, housing and education services, as well as the admissions department. From 1994 to 1999, Zito was the executive director of the alcohol and drug treatment center, Hazelden New York. Prior to that, she served as director of Treatment at Smithers Alcoholism Rehabilitation Center of the St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital Center from 1986 to 1994. Zito previously taught at the New York State Academy of Addiction Studies and served as an adjunct instructor at Hunter College.

"I have dedicated my entire career to helping people overcome their addictions," said Zito. "I am honored by the Governor's appointment and look forward to using my expertise and knowledge in this area to further serve the people of California."

Zito, 64, of San Francisco, earned a Masters degree in social work from Hunter College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fordham University. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$133,732. Zito is a Democrat.

The California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs will work closely with the newly re-organized Division of Addiction and Recovery Services within CDCR to create a stronger substance abuse treatment network for in-prison and community-based treatment programs to help reduce recidivism rates among the parole population. ADP provides leadership and policy coordination for the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of a comprehensive statewide system of alcohol and other drug prevention, treatment and recovery services. The Department has approximately 326 permanent staff and oversight responsibilities for an average annual budget of more than \$600 million. ADP manages and administers both state and federal monies, including the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, a major source of funding. ADP also manages the Drug Medi-Cal benefit program, which has expanded to more than \$115 million yearly.